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REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are now pending in this application for which applicant seeks reconsideration.

Amendment

The title has been amended as suggested by the examiner, and the specification has been amended to remove the informality noted by the examiner and others contained therein. Claims 1, 3, and 4 have been amended to improve their form and readability. Moreover, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite the structure of the holding member vis-a-vis the stepped portion of the coil fitting arms. Further, new claims 13-16 have been added to further define the present invention. New independent claim 14, which is a combination of amended claim 1 and claims 2-4, more clearly defines the position of the through-holes. No new matter has been introduced.

Drawing Objection

The drawings were objected to under Rule 83(a) because the thickness "t" is not illustrated. Applicant submits that the thickness "t" is clearly shown in Fig. 14 (at the rightmost side). Accordingly, applicant urges the examiner to withdraw this drawing objection.

Art Rejection

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Phillips (USP 5,600,516) in view of Pace (USP 5,621,590), claim 10 was rejected further in view of Umehara (USP 5,168,185), and claims 11 and 12 were rejected further in view of Kamigana (JP 200-268513). Applicant submits that the present amendment renders moot these rejections because the combination, even if it were deemed proper for argument's sake, would not have taught the stepped portion/through-hole configuration called for in claims 1 and 14.

Specifically, claim 1 now calls for the through-hole to extend through the stepped portion of the coil fitting arms, and the bottom of the stepped portion to be substantially flush with the

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bottom of the holding member.

Phillips does not disclose step portions in its arms 86, as called for in claim 1. Moreover, in contrast to the examiner's understanding, the holes 104, 106 do not extend through the stepped portion since it does not have any stepped portion. In Phillips, the holding member 90 is suspended between the arms 86, with its upper and lower sides protruding above and below the arms. See Fig. 6. The examiner relied upon Pace for the proposition that having stepped portions with holes in its coil support member 34 would have been obvious.

Applicant disagrees with the examiner's assessment, but even if the combination were deemed proper for argument's sake, Pace would not have taught making the bottom of the stepped portion to be substantially flush with the bottom of Phillips' holding member. Fig. 6A of Phillips shows an alternative embodiment where the bottom surface of its holding member 90 is placed on the top surface of its arm 86. Accordingly, Phillips as modified by Pace would not have taught or suggested the claimed configuration called for in claim 1.

Claim 14 defines over Phillips and Pace for the same reason, and further because the combination would not have taught placing the through-holes at the boundary where the stepped portion extends from the arm.

The other applied references, namely Umehara and Kamigana, would not have alleviated the shortcomings of Phillips as modified by Pace.

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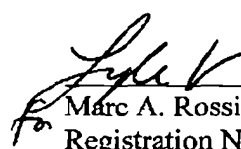
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Conclusion

Applicant submits that claims 1-16 patentably distinguish over the applied references and thus urge the examiner to issue an early Notice of Allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicant urges the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 24, 2003

  
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JUL 24 2003

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